Wage settlement in Central Warehousing Corporation

474. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any request regarding several un-resolved problems alongwith 2nd Wage settlement with the Federation of Central Warehousing Corporation ; and

(b) if so, what action has since been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) The Federation of Central Warehousing Corporation Employees Unions submitted proposals for Second Wage Revision to the CWC in June 1989. The management began negotiations with the Federation. When the negotiations were in an advanced stage, rival unions formed the "All India CWC Employees unions Front" which has claimed majority representation among the employees. The Front has also challenged the right of the Federation to represent the CWC employees during the discussions on Second Wage Settlement. Further negotiations for Wage Settlement would therefore be possible only after verification of the claims of the two rival organisations on majority representation, for which the matter has been referred to the Chief Labour Commissioner.

Construction of godowns of Central Warehousing Corporation in Calcutta

475. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been repeated requests from the Central Warehousing Corporation Workers' Union, Calcutta Region, regarding own constructed godowns and Regional Office in Calcutta Region; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b) There have been requests from Central Warehousing Corporation Workers' Union, Calcutta Region regarding own constructed godowns. At present, the Central Warehousing Corporation has its own constructed capacity of 1.68 lakh tonnes in West Bengal. Construction of additional godowns by the Corporation is ac ontinuous process and the Corporation has been regularly adding to its own constructed capacity all over the country, including the Calcutta Region. This construction depends on a number of factors, such as long term business potential, availability of land at suitable locations and at reasonable rates, economic viability of the project, cost benefit analysis of hiring *vis-a-vis* own construction etc.

The Regional Office of CWC at Calcutta is at present functioning in a hired accommodation. Efforts are being made by the Corporation to acquire suitable land and buildings for the Regional Office with the help of the West Bengal Government.

Establishment of business division of Central Warehousing Corporation in Calcutta

476. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for which the Central Warehousing Corporation, Calcutta Region, are not constructing own godowns in Habra, RIC Bonhooghly &

Behala, CPT Land at Taratola, Barasat or Birati, Belda, Siliguri and Lake Depot in West Bengal; and

(b) whether there is any business division to supervise the affairs of the Central Warehousing Corporation relating to their business?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA) : (a) Construction of own godowns by the Central Warehousing Corporation is a continuous process and the Corporation is regularly adding its own constructed capacity all over the country including the Calcutta Region. The decision to construct own godowns at any centre depends on a number of factors, such as long term business potential, availability of land at a suitable location and at a reasonable rate, economic viability of the project, cost benefit analysis of hiring *vis-a-vis* own construction, etc. The position in regard to the specific centres mentioned in the question is indicated below:—

1. *HABRA*—A detailed survey is being carried out to assess the storage potential and identify the commodities that may be available for storage on a long term basis. Construction at this centre will also depend on availability of land at a reasonable cost.

2. *RIC BON-HOOGHLY*—Project for construction of a godown was not found to be economically viable for storage of conventional commodities like foodgrains, fertilizers etc.

3. *BEHALA*—Suitable land for construction of a godown is not available.

4. *CPT LAND AT TARATOLA*—The Calcutta Port Trust had offered a stretch of land in Taratola to the CWC for construction of a warehouse but it was not found suitable.

5. *BARASAT*—Central Warehousing Corporation has no plans to construct own godowns at Barasat for want of adequate business potential.

6. *BIRATI*—No Government land is available for a warehouse and the private parties are demanding exhorbitant price.

7. *BELDA*—Efforts are being made to procure land for construction of a 5000 tonnes capacity godowns at Belda.

8. *SILIGURI*—The West Bengal State Warehousing Corporation is already operating a warehousing of about 20,000 tonnes capacity at Siliguri. As per working arrangement with the State Warehousing Corporation, the Central Warehousing Corporation canno construct a warehouse at this centre.

9. *LAKE DEPOT*—No land is available at this Centre as the West Bengal Essential Commodities Corporation is constructing its own godown at this Complex.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Holidays to Chowkidars in Central Warehousing Corporation, Calcutta Region

477. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that up to 1985 Chowkidars of Central Warehousing Corporation, Calcutta Region, were being granted 16 holidays in a year; and